



ICECUBE SUMMER SCHOOL

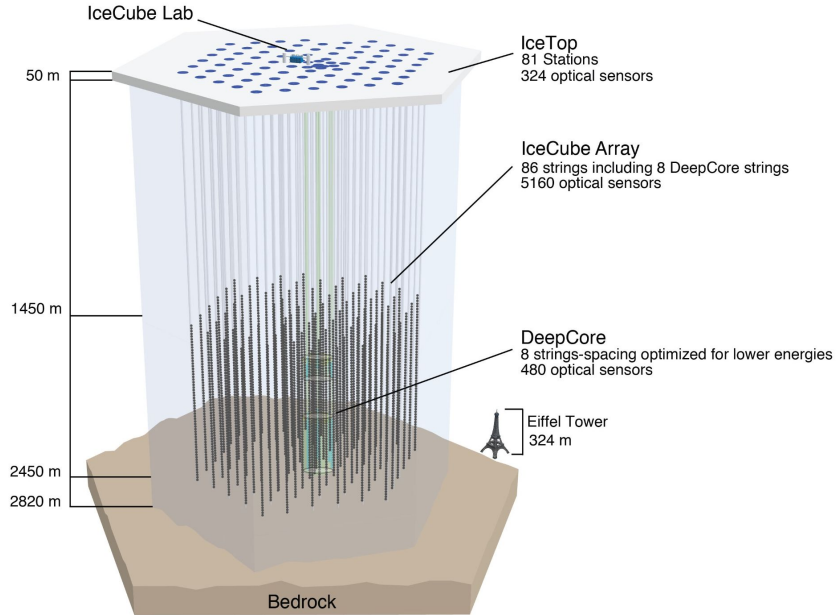
JUNE 1-5, 2026 • MADISON, WI

IceTray

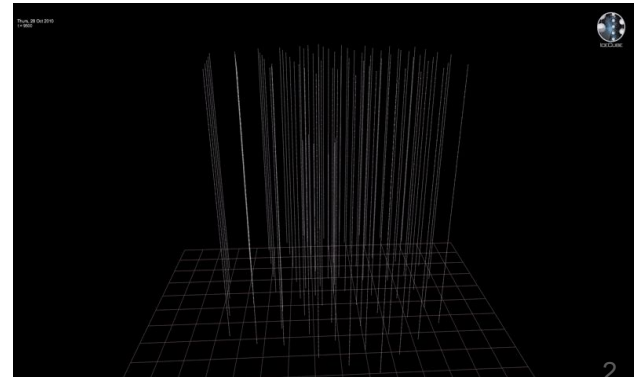
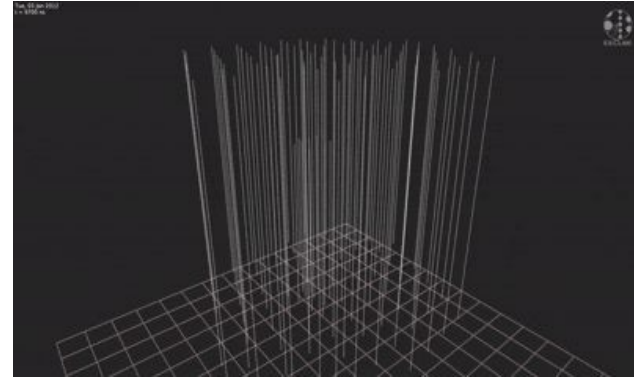
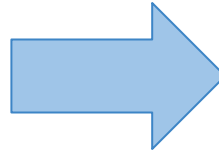
Hannah Erpenbeck, Maxwell Nakos

Presentation heavily adapted from Kevin Meagher

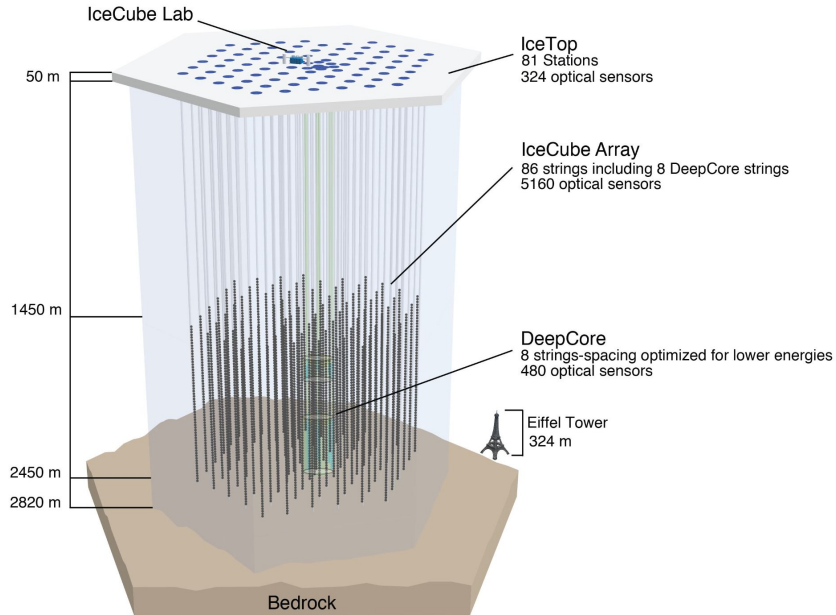
From IceCube the detector to neutrino events



?



IceTray - A Swiss Army knife for IceCube analysis.



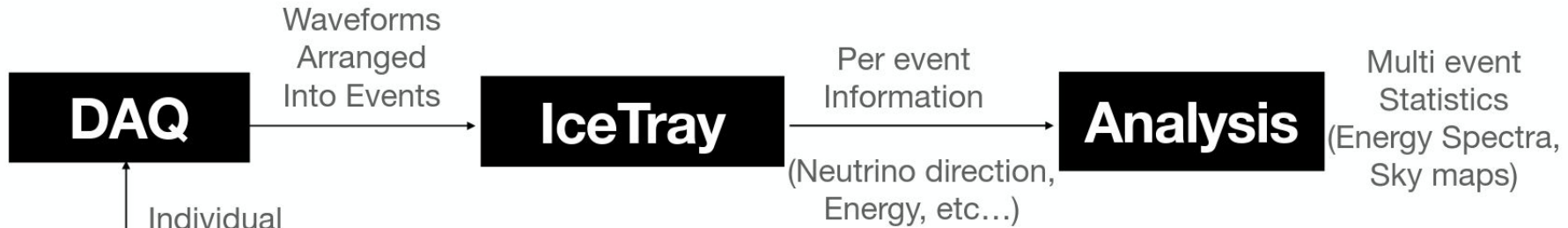
IceTray is IceCube's Framework for serial processing of IceCube Data.

- ❖ 5160 DOMs send information
- ❖ One event $\sim 10 \mu\text{s}$

Reconstruct the event including energy and direction

<https://docs.icecube.aq/icetray/main/info/quickstart.html>

Overview of IceCube Processing Pipelines



DOMs

Individual Waveforms

DAQ

Waveforms Arranged Into Events

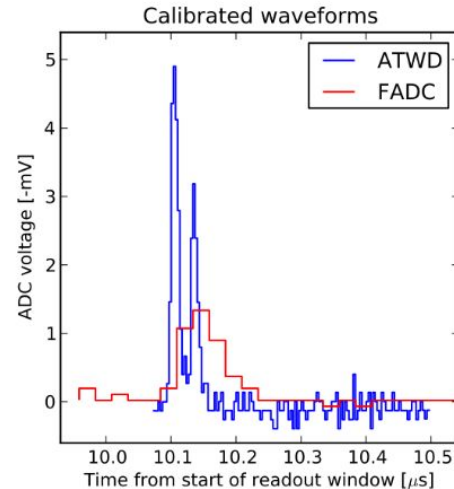
IceTray

Per event Information (Neutrino direction, Energy, etc...)

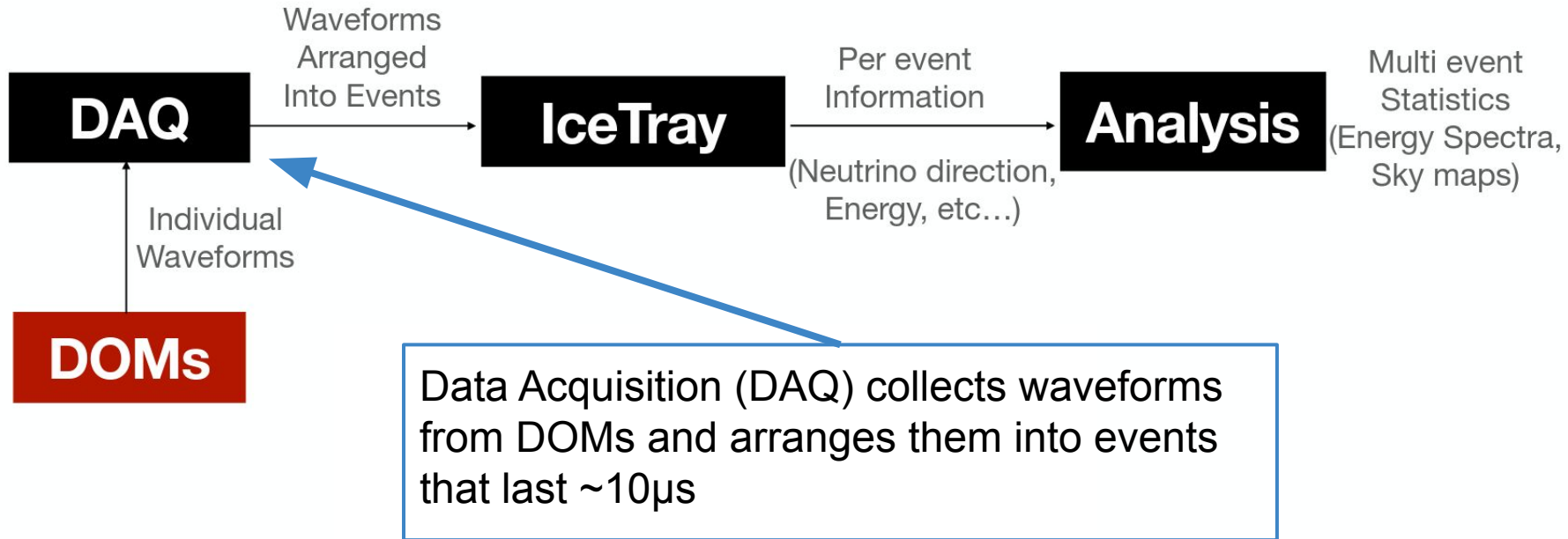
Analysis

Multi event Statistics (Energy Spectra, Sky maps)

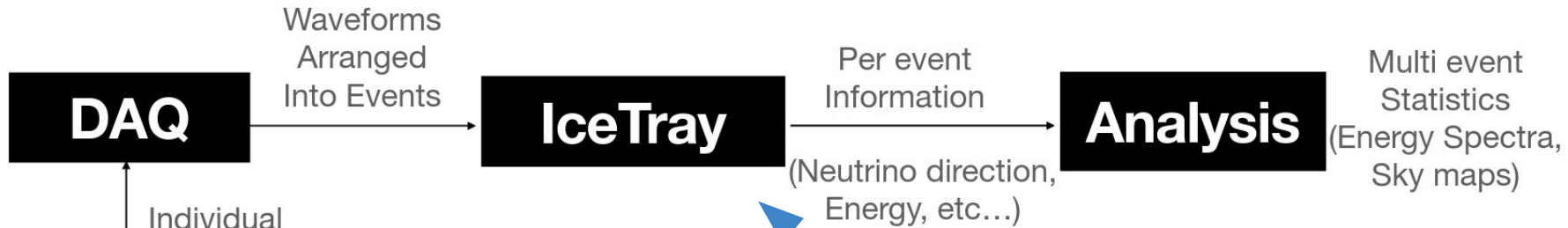
DOMs record light from the PMT and save a time series as a waveform



Overview of IceCube Processing Pipelines



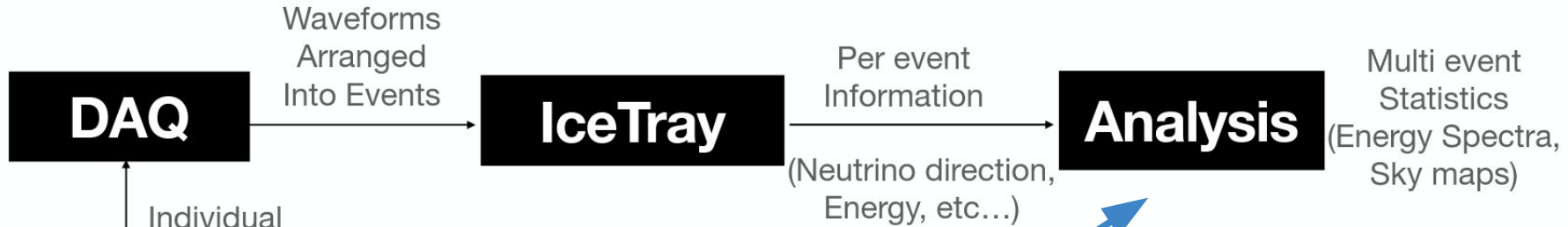
Overview of IceCube Processing Pipelines



IceTray processes the waveforms into pulses and performs reconstructions on those pulses to record information about the specific event.

Examples include: Zenith, azimuth, total charge, muon energy

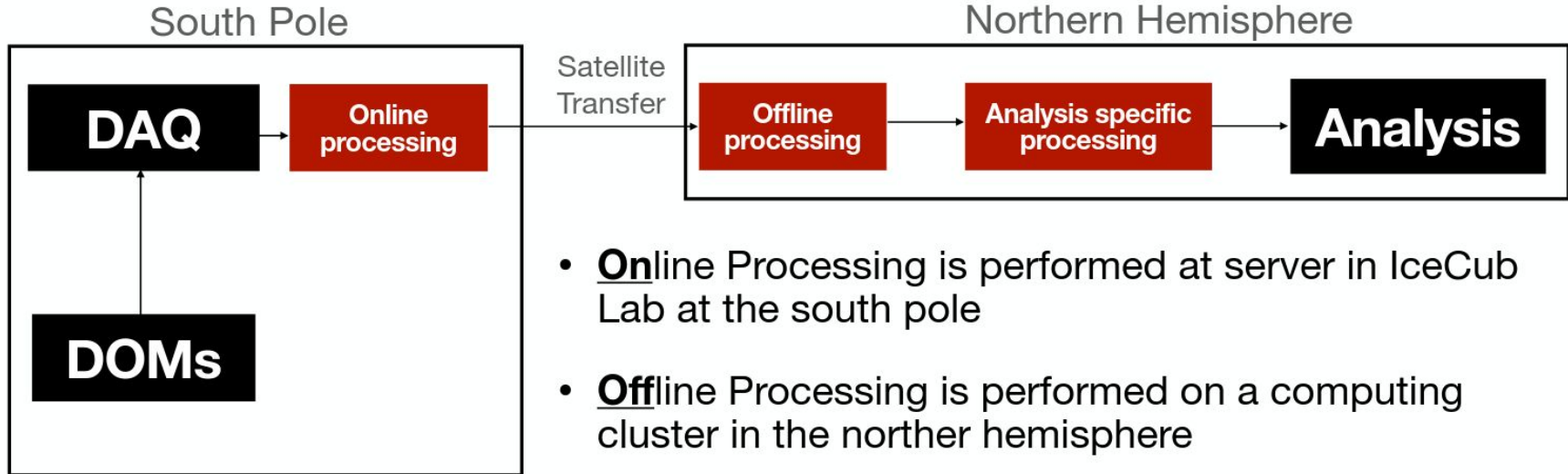
Overview of IceCube Processing Pipelines



Analysis combines individual reconstructed quantities from multiple events and combines them into a statistic

Example: Zenith and azimuth from all the events to form a skymap or energy from each event to form an energy spectrum

More detailed view of processing



- **O**nline Processing is performed at server in IceCub Lab at the south pole
- **O**ffline Processing is performed on a computing cluster in the norther hemisphere
- Most analyses require additional processing beyond what is provided by offline processing, usually handled by working groups

Getting Help

IceTray is a framework that has grown a lot over time

- Works great for IceCube
- Very specifically designed for IceCube
- Many people have used it for more than 15 years and still need help
- There are experts for every part of it

IceTray Documentation : <https://docs.icecube.aq/icetray/main/>

Ask for help on slack: **#software**

If documentation is missing or unclear or incorrect please file an [issue on github](#)

Detailed Look at IceTray

Building Blocks of IceTray



I3 File

example.i3
compressedExample.i3.zst

- Standard file format for IceCube data
- Used for both experimental data and simulation
- I3 files are used for serial processing of data
- The frame is the fundamental unit of an i3 file

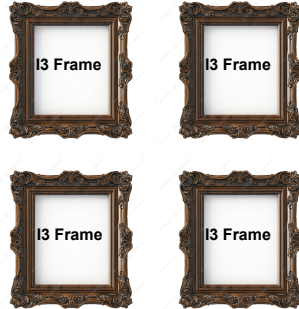
https://docs.icecube.aq/icetray/main/projects/dataio/portable_binary_archive.html#i3file

Building Blocks of IceTray

I3 File

example.i3
compressedExample.i3.zst

I3 Frame



- I3Frames are a data container that stores all information about a particular event ($\sim 10\mu\text{s}$)
 - Raw waveforms, processed pulses, and reconstruction results
- Any data structure that IceTray supports can be put into a frame
- Every object in the frame has a name or key
- I3Frames are what is written to disk (in I3Files) to save data

Building Blocks of IceTray

I3 File

example.i3
compressedExample.i3.zst

I3 Frame

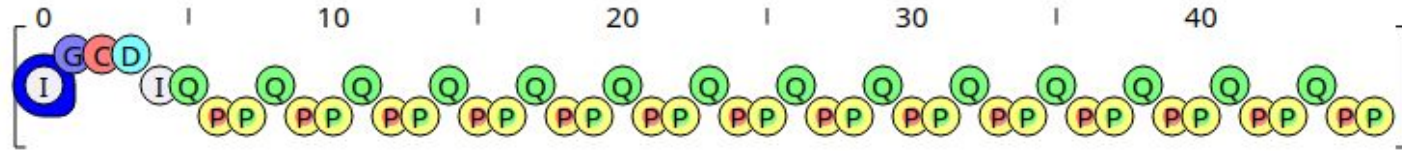


...

I3Frame Types

- I I3Frame::TrayInfo
 - G I3Frame::Geometry
 - C I3Frame::Calibration
 - D I3Frame::DetectorStatus
 - P I3Frame::Physics
 - Q I3Frame::DAQ
- and others (special)

I3 Frames



Metadata (usually once per file):

“I” (TrayInfo): Information on how the file was previously processed

Detector and Run specific information:

“G” (Geometry): Geometric coordinates of each DOM

“C” (Calibration): Calibration constants relating to the photomultiplier tubes

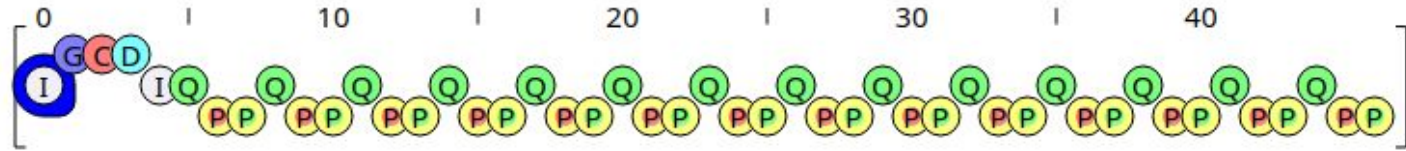
“D” (Detector Status): How the data acquisition system was configured for this particular (8 hour) run. E.g. which DOMs were on.

Event Info: (~10 us of data):

“Q” (DAQ): Waveforms recorded for this event

“P” (Physics): High level pulse information and reconstructions

GCD File

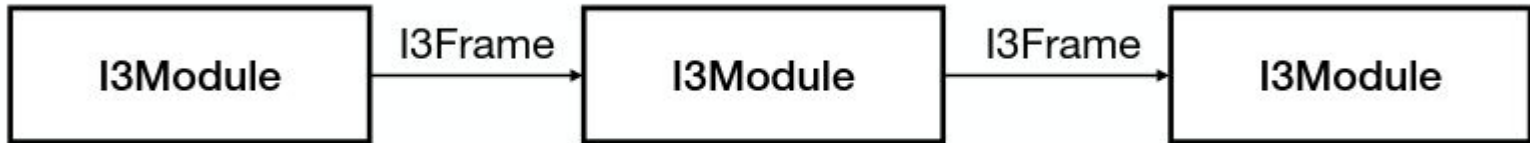


There is a GCD file for every run or simulation set.

It's very important to have the correct GCD file for a run/simulation file!

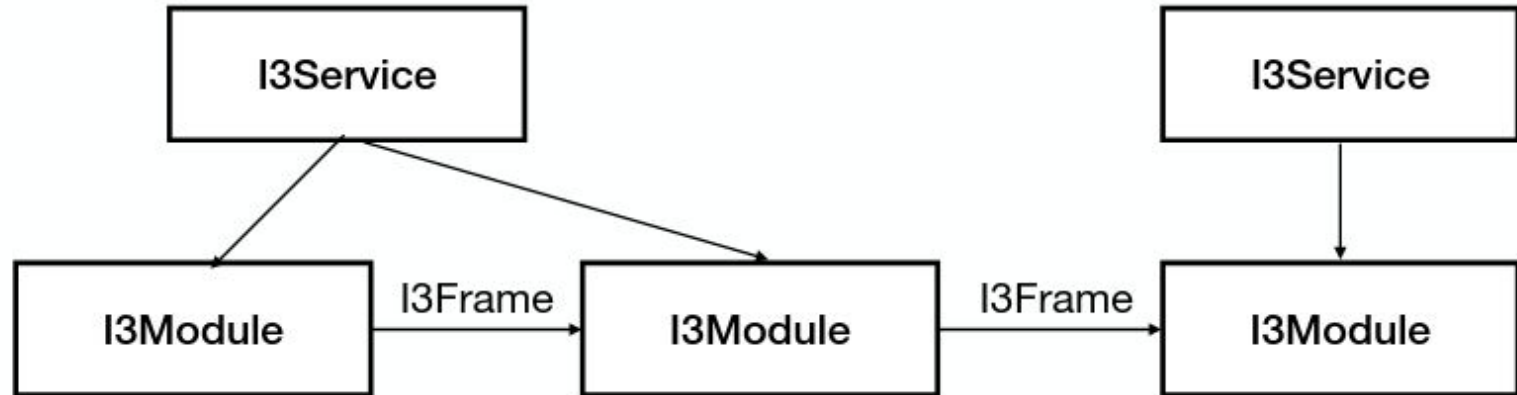
I3Module

- I3Modules take data from I3Frames and process them and add more data to the frame
- Modules are arranged in a “Tray” which passes frames from one module to the next
- Each frame is processed serially — Every module will process a particular frame before the tray moves on to the next event (frame)



I3 Service

- Services provide code to multiple modules
- Modules can access services such as a random number generator



Using IceTray

Visualization: - Dataio-shovel

Useful commands:

- “enter”: open an object in a cleaned human readable format
- “x”: open a module in XML format
- “q”: exit an object or the file

- “e”: go to an event number
- “g”: go to a frame number
- “}”: go to last frame
- “{“: go to first frame

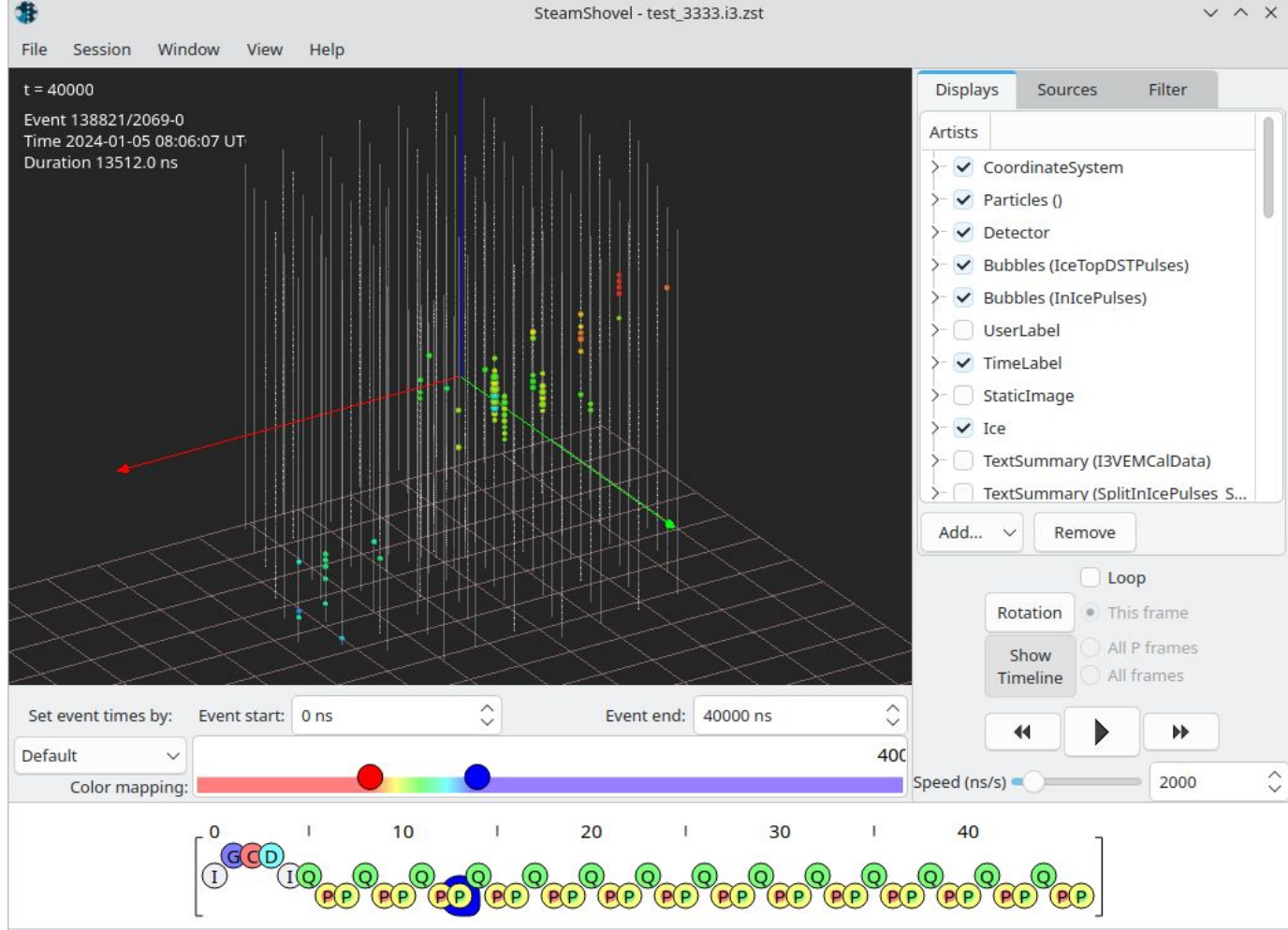
- “i”: enter a python shell
- “L”: import a library

- “?”: show all available commands

Dataio-shovel Demo

Visualization: Steamshovel

Tool for 3D
visualization of
IceCube events in
a GUI



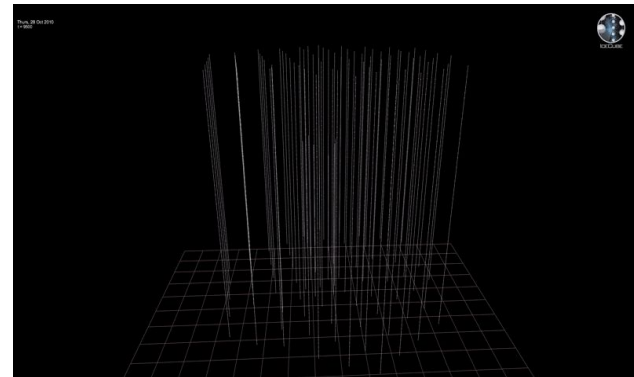
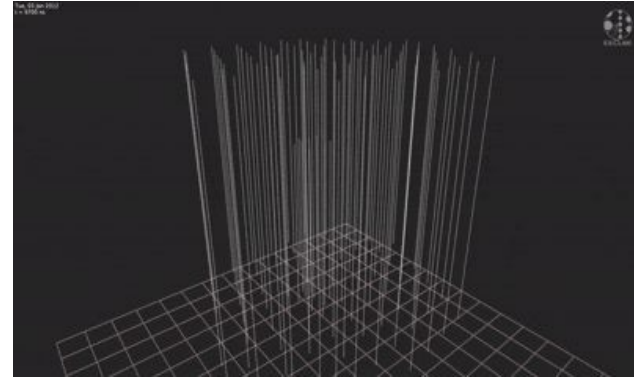
Visualization: - Steamshovel

To use:

1. Navigate to the build folder of your IceTray
2. Enter the IceTray environment
`./env-shell.sh`
3. Open steamshovel `steamshovel`
4. Open 1) the GCD file and then 2) an event I3 file in steamshovel

Documentation:

<https://docs.icecube.aq/icetray/main/projects/steamshovel/index.html>



Tutorial

Connect to the cobalts

```
ssh *user*@pub.icecube.wisc.edu
```

```
ssh *user*@cobalt.icecube.wisc.edu
```

Information:

[https://wiki.icecube.wisc.edu/index.php/
Computing_Services](https://wiki.icecube.wisc.edu/index.php/Computing_Services)

[https://wiki.icecube.wisc.edu/index.php/
SSH#config](https://wiki.icecube.wisc.edu/index.php/SSH#config)

Or setup .ssh/config with:

```
Host pub*.icecube.wisc.edu
  User *****
  Compression yes
  GSSAPIAuthentication yes
  GSSAPIDelegateCredentials yes
```

```
Host cobalt.icecube.wisc.edu
  User *****
  ControlMaster auto
  ForwardAgent yes
  KeepAlive yes
  GSSAPIAuthentication yes
  GSSAPIDelegateCredentials yes
  LocalForward 5555 localhost:5555
  ProxyJump pub.icecube.wisc.edu
```

Load IceTray and try dataio-shovel

1. In your terminal connect to the cobalts
2. `eval `/cvmfs/icecube.opensciencegrid.org/py3-v4.4.0/setup.sh``
3. `/data/user/herpenbeck/bootcamp/icetray/build/env-shell.sh`

Then i.e. either run a python script (that imports `icetray`) or use `dataio-shovel`:

4. `dataio-shovel`
`/data/user/herpenbeck/bootcamp/i3_files/Level2_IC86.2023_data_Run00138`
`821_84_781_GCD_withSLCcal2.i3.zst`
`/data/user/herpenbeck/bootcamp/i3_files/example_Run00138821_Subrun000`
`00000_00000000.i3.zst`

An example of a Simple Tray

Tray:

```
1 # Import icetray and dataio
2 from icecube import icetray, dataio
3
4 # Create a new Tray
5 tray = icetray.I3Tray()
6
7 # Add a module that produces an
8 # infinite number of empty frames
9 tray.Add("I3InfiniteSource")
10
11 # Add a module that prints the
12 # contents of each frame
13 tray.Add("Dump")
14
15 # Start the execution of the tray
16 # But only do 10 frames
17 tray.Execute(10)
```

Output:

```
----- This is frame number 1 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
]
----- This is frame number 2 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
]
----- This is frame number 3 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
]
----- This is frame number 4 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
]
----- This is frame number 5 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
]
----- This is frame number 6 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
]
----- This is frame number 7 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
]
----- This is frame number 8 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
]
----- This is frame number 9 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
]
----- This is frame number 10 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
]
NOTICE (I3Tray): I3Tray finishing... (I3Tray.cxx:525 in void I3Tray::Execute(bool, unsigned int))
```

Add an I3MCTree to the frame

```
1 # Import icetray and dataio
2 from icecube import icetray, dataio, dataclasses
3
4 def generator(frame):
5     # Add tree containing Monte Carlo particles
6     # to the frame
7     frame["tree"] = dataclasses.I3MCTree()
8
9 # Create a new Tray
10 tray = icetray.I3Tray()
11
12 # Add a module that produces an
13 # infinite number of empty frames
14 tray.Add("I3InfiniteSource")
15
16 # add generator to the
17 tray.Add(generator, streams=[icetray.I3Frame.DAQ])
18
19 # Add a module that prints the
20 # contents of each frame
21 tray.Add("Dump")
22
23 # Start the execution of the tray
24 # But only do 10 frames
25 tray.Execute(10)
26
```

Modules
written
Python

Modules
written
In C++

```
----- This is frame number 1 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'tree' [DAQ] ==> TreeBase::Tree<I3Particle, I3ParticleID, i3hash<I3ParticleID>> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 2 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'tree' [DAQ] ==> TreeBase::Tree<I3Particle, I3ParticleID, i3hash<I3ParticleID>> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 3 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'tree' [DAQ] ==> TreeBase::Tree<I3Particle, I3ParticleID, i3hash<I3ParticleID>> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 4 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'tree' [DAQ] ==> TreeBase::Tree<I3Particle, I3ParticleID, i3hash<I3ParticleID>> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 5 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'tree' [DAQ] ==> TreeBase::Tree<I3Particle, I3ParticleID, i3hash<I3ParticleID>> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 6 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'tree' [DAQ] ==> TreeBase::Tree<I3Particle, I3ParticleID, i3hash<I3ParticleID>> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 7 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'tree' [DAQ] ==> TreeBase::Tree<I3Particle, I3ParticleID, i3hash<I3ParticleID>> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 8 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'tree' [DAQ] ==> TreeBase::Tree<I3Particle, I3ParticleID, i3hash<I3ParticleID>> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 9 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'tree' [DAQ] ==> TreeBase::Tree<I3Particle, I3ParticleID, i3hash<I3ParticleID>> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 10 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'tree' [DAQ] ==> TreeBase::Tree<I3Particle, I3ParticleID, i3hash<I3ParticleID>> (unk)
]
NOTICE (I3Tray): I3Tray finishing... (I3Tray.cxx:525 in void I3Tray::Execute(bool, unsigned int))
```

Use a random service

```
1 # Import everything
2 from icecube import icetray, dataio, phys_services
3
4 # Module that gets a random number and prints it
5 class PrintRandom(icetray.I3Module):
6     def __init__(self, context):
7         icetray.I3Module.__init__(self, context)
8     def DAQ(self, frame):
9         #get a random number from the random number service
10        rnd = self.context["I3RandomService"].uniform(1)
11        #print that number
12        print(rnd)
13
14 # Create a new Tray
15 tray = icetray.I3Tray()
16
17 # add a random number service to the context with seed = 42
18 tray.context["I3RandomService"] = phys_services.I3GSLRandomService(42)
19
20 # Add a module that produces an
21 # infinite number of empty frames
22 tray.Add("I3InfiniteSource")
23
24 # add the module we defined above to the tray
25 tray.Add(PrintRandom)
26
27 # Start the execution of the tray
28 # But only do 10 frames
29 tray.Execute(10)
30
```

```
0.37454011430963874
0.7965429842006415
0.9507143115624785
0.18343478767201304
0.7319939383305609
0.7796909974422306
0.5986584862694144
0.5968501614406705
0.1560186385177076
0.4458327575121075
NOTICE (I3Tray): I3Tray finishing... (I3Tray.cxx:525 in void I3Tray::Execute(bool, unsigned int))
```

Add a random number to the frame

```
1 # Import everything
2 from icecube import icetray, dataio, dataclasses, phys_services
3
4 # Module that gets a random number and prints it
5 class AddRandomToFrame(icetray.I3Module):
6     def __init__(self, context):
7         icetray.I3Module.__init__(self, context)
8     def DAQ(self, frame):
9         #get a random number from the random number service
10        rnd = self.context["I3RandomService"].uniform(1)
11        #add that number to the frame as an I3Double
12        frame["random_number"] = dataclasses.I3Double(rnd)
13        # You need to pass the frame on to the next module
14        self.PushFrame(frame)
15
16 # Create a new Tray
17 tray = icetray.I3Tray()
18
19 # add a random number service to the context with seed = 42
20 tray.context["I3RandomService"] = phys_services.I3GSLRandomService(42)
21
22 # Add a module that produces an
23 # infinite number of empty frames
24 tray.Add("I3InfiniteSource")
25
26 # add the module we defined above to the
27 tray.Add(AddRandomToFrame)
28
29 # add module to print each frame
30 tray.Add("Dump")
31
32 # Start the execution of the tray
33 # But only do 10 frames
34 tray.Execute(10)
```

```
----- This is frame number 1 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 2 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 3 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 4 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 5 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 6 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 7 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 8 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 9 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 10 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
```

```

1 # Import everything
2 from icecube import icetray, dataio, dataclasses, phys_services
3
4 # Module that gets a random number and prints it
5 class AddRandomToFrame(icetray.I3Module):
6     def __init__(self, context):
7         icetray.I3Module.__init__(self, context)
8     def DAQ(self, frame):
9         #get a random number from the random number service
10        rnd = self.context["I3RandomService"].uniform(1)
11        #add that number to the frame as an I3Double
12        frame["random_number"] = dataclasses.I3Double(rnd)
13        # You need to pass the frame on to the next module
14        self.PushFrame(frame)
15
16 # define filter that removes half of the events
17 def filter(frame):
18     return frame['random_number']<0.5
19
20 # Create a new Tray
21 tray = icetray.I3Tray()
22
23 # add a random number service to the context with seed = 42
24 tray.context["I3RandomService"] = phys_services.I3GSLRandomService(42)
25
26 # Add a module that produces an
27 # infinite number of empty frames
28 tray.Add("I3InfiniteSource")
29
30 # add the module we defined above to the frame
31 tray.Add(AddRandomToFrame)
32
33 #add filter to the tray
34 tray.Add(filter, streams = [icetray.I3Frame.DAQ])
35
36 # add module to print each frame
37 tray.Add("Dump")
38
39 # Start the execution of the tray
40 # But only do 10 frames
41 tray.Execute(10)

```

Use a filter to remove Events based on the contents of the frame

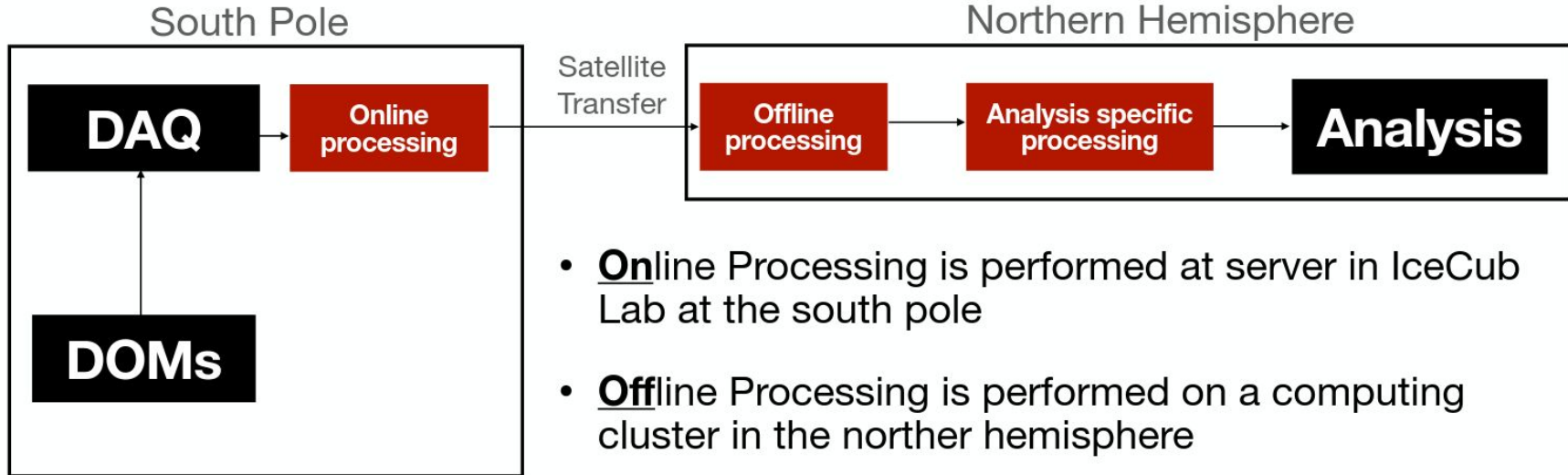
```

----- This is frame number 1 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 2 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 3 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 4 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
NOTICE (I3Tray): I3Tray finishing... (I3Tray.cxx:525 in void I3Tray::Execute(bool, unsigned int))

```

Offline Filter example

More detailed view of processing



- **O**nline Processing is performed at server in IceCub Lab at the south pole
- **O**ffline Processing is performed on a computing cluster in the norther hemisphere
- Most analyses require additional processing beyond what is provided by offline processing, usually handled by working groups

```

from icecube import (
    dataclasses,
    icetray,
    dataio
)
from icecube.icetray import I3Units
from icecube.phys_services.which_split import which_split

```

Read in a file and then use existing information

Create a new file

Code part 1

```

#The traysegment for the charge filter
@icetray.traysegment
def ChargeFilter(tray, name):

    #It is common to apply a filter to only specific frames
    #In this case, we want to apply the filter only to InIceSplit frames
    #also we want to use the Online Filtering information
    #So we check for two online filters.
    def online_filters_passed(frame):
        """Return True if frame passed any of the specified filters."""
        if not which_split("InIceSplit")(frame):
            return False

        filter_names = ["OnlineL2Filter_23", "SoftwareSMT12Filt_23"]
        return any(frame["OnlineFilterMask"][filter_name].prescale_passed for filter_name in filter_names)

    # apply HomogenizedQTot to the SplitInIcePulses
    # it calculates the charge of an event using the given pulse
    #The output is an I3Double named HomogenizedQTot with the total charge in photoelectrons
    from icecube import VHESelfVeto
    tray.AddModule("HomogenizedQTot", name+"_qtot_causal",
        Pulses="SplitInIcePulses",
        Output="HomogenizedQTot",
        If = online_filters_passed)

    # Cut on the newly calculated charge of the event
    # Save the result of the cut in a boolean I3Bool named Charge_Cut_Bool
    def cut(frame):
        cut_passed = frame["HomogenizedQTot"].value>100.
        if cut_passed:
            print(f"Cut passed for event {frame['I3EventHeader'].event_id} with charge {frame['HomogenizedQTot'].value:.2f} PE")
            frame["Charge_Cut_Bool"] = icetray.I3Bool(cut_passed)

    tray.AddModule(cut, "cut", Streams=[icetray.I3Frame.Physics], If=online_filters_passed)

```

Reading in a file, writing new keys and saving them in another file

Same file as previous slide

Code part 2

Full file line (got cut off in the screenshot):

```
# a gcd file and an i3 file with data
```

```
files =  
["/data/user/herpenbeck/bootcamp/i3_files/Level2_IC86.2023_data_Run00138821_84_781_GCD_withSLCcal2.i3.zst",  
"/data/user/herpenbeck/bootcamp/i3_files/example_Run00138821_Subrun00000000_00000000.i3.zst"]
```

```
#Now open the i3 file and apply the filter  
# Create a new Tray  
tray = icetrayer.I3Tray()  
  
# a gcd file and an i3 file with data  
files = ["/data/user/herpenbeck/bootcamp/i3_files/Level2_IC86.2023_data_Run00138821_84_781_GCD_withSLCcal2.i3.zst",  
"/data/user/herpenbeck/bootcamp/i3_files/example_Run00138821_Subrun00000000_00000000.i3.zst"]  
  
#load i3 file  
tray.Add(dataio.I3Reader, "reader",  
         filenamelist=files)  
  
# Add filter to the tray  
tray.AddSegment(ChargeFilter, "ChargeFilter")  
  
# save the output to a new i3 file  
output_file = "ChargeFilter_output.i3.zst"  
# Write the physics and DAQ frames  
# Also write TrayInfo frame which lists modules and services, along with their configuration  
tray.AddModule("I3Writer", "EventWriter",  
              filename=output_file,  
              Streams=[icetrayer.I3Frame.TrayInfo,  
                      icetrayer.I3Frame.DAQ,  
                      icetrayer.I3Frame.Physics,  
                      ])  
  
tray.Execute(100)  
  
# Stop the tray  
tray.Finish()  
  
# Print the output file name  
print(f"Output written to {output_file}")
```

Build your own icetray on the cobalts

<https://docs.icecube.aq/icetray/main/info/quickstart.html> = Instructions

Our changes: `git clone git@github.com:icecube/icetray.git src`

Or use a cvmfs version, example:

1. `eval `/cvmfs/icecube.opensciencegrid.org/py3-v4.4.0/setup.sh``
2. `/cvmfs/icecube.opensciencegrid.org/py3-v4.4.0/RHEL_9_x86_64_v2/metaprojects/icetray/v1.13.0/bin/icetray-shell`

Load IceTray and try dataio-shovel

1. In your terminal connect to the cobalts
2. `eval `/cvmfs/icecube.opensciencegrid.org/py3-v4.4.0/setup.sh``
3. `/data/user/herpenbeck/bootcamp/icetray/build/env-shell.sh`

Then i.e. either run a python script (that imports icetray) or use dataio-shovel:

4. `dataio-shovel`
`/data/user/herpenbeck/bootcamp/i3_files/Level2_IC86.2023_data_Run00138`
`821_84_781_GCD_withSLCcal2.i3.zst`
`/data/user/herpenbeck/bootcamp/i3_files/example_Run00138821_Subrun000`
`00000_00000000.i3.zst`